

1982

Club planning field day

Some 200 members of the Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club are literally going to have a field day this Saturday and Sunday when they gather at a private park on Rock Creek six miles northwest of Vernonia.

The occasion is the 1982 field day sponsored by the American Radio Relay League, a national organization of ham operators. Like hundreds of other clubs and individuals across the nation, the Tualatin Valley group engages in the competition once a year on the last weekend in June.

It is an emergency preparedness exercise that encourages maintenance of portable communications equipment and development of operating skills under difficult conditions.

The object is to be ready for such natural disasters and emergencies as the Mount St. Helens eruption, when hams often are the only immediate

rescue and welfare means of communication, according to Dick Powers of Oregon City, president of OTVARC.

Rallying Friday to set up, members will assemble and install their gear, all of which is donated or borrowed. They will be operating two phone (speaking) stations and two on Morse code. One of which will be operated by novice operators.

For antennas, there will be four towers with beam antennas and seven or eight wire antennas supported by tall fir trees.

To simulate actual emergency conditions, all equipment will operate on automotive batteries, with some functions run by portable generators.

Ham radio operators at all levels of proficiency will be involved, officially from 10 a.m. Saturday until 10 a.m. Sunday, and points will be scored by the ARRL on the number of distant stations they make contact with over

the prescribed period.

At the close of the exercise Sunday, all of the gear will be disassembled and the park will be restored to its natural state.

Committee members in charge of field day are Mona Whiting and Al Berg of Hillsboro, Marty McKillip of Cedar Mill and Warren Knight and Roger Steyaert of Aloha.

Social activity, besides the conviviality of camping out in tents or trailers, will be a spaghetti feed Saturday night, followed by a marshmallow roast and bingo party.

Sunday morning there will be a pancake-and-egg breakfast. Several outdoor games have been organized to keep family members busy.

The public is invited to attend the outing and observe ham radio in action. Visitors may take the Rock Creek/Keasey Road in Vernonia and look for the field day signs.